Super Bore IX, page nine

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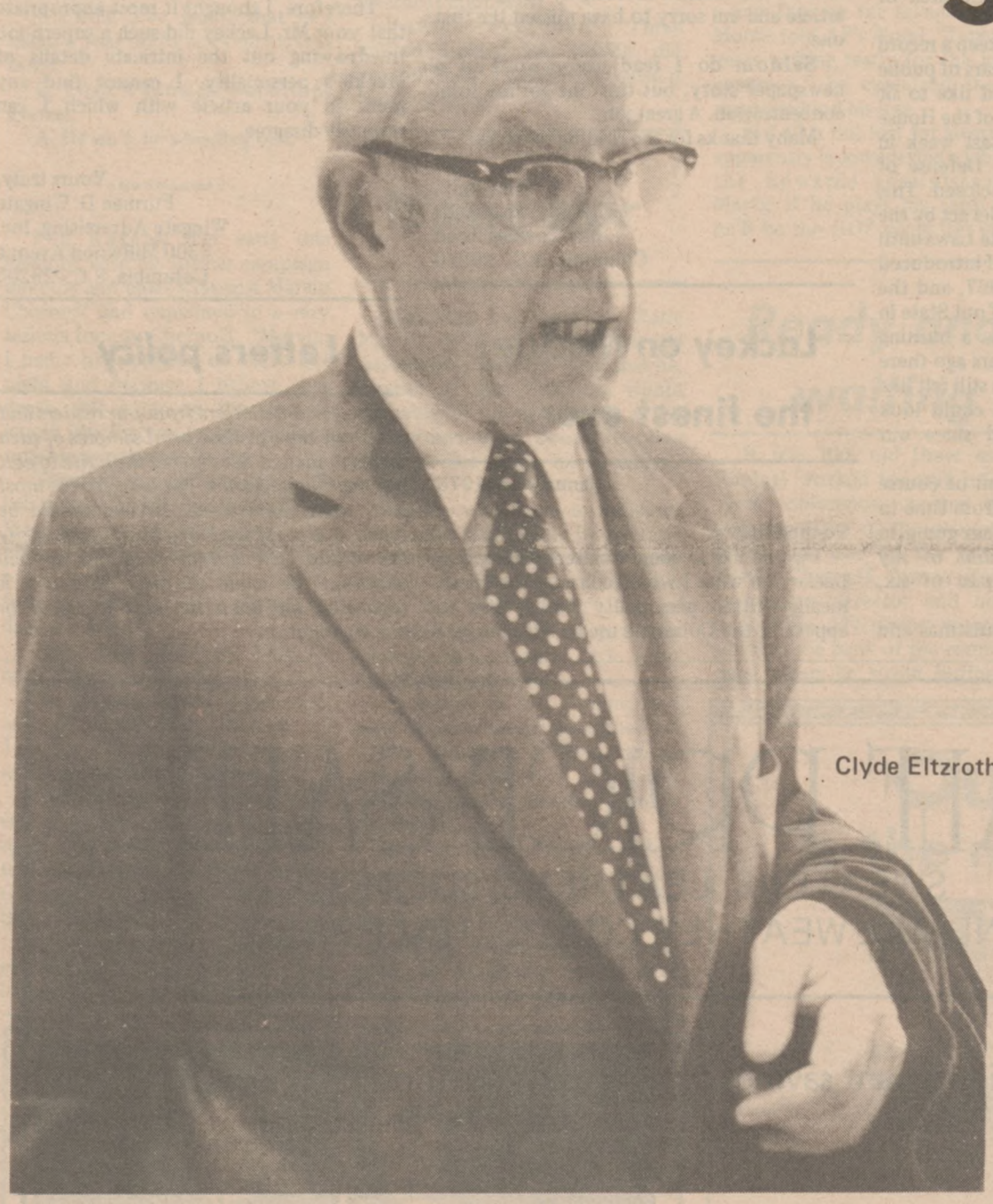

Clyde Eltzroth

Eltzroth calls on his political debtors

by Dick Harpootlian

Clyde Eltzroth stood in the back of the House chamber, next to the only entrance to the room. As legislators strolled in to take their seats for the first session of 1975, Eltzroth would reach out and grab the arm, elbow, shoulder, hand or any other acceptable part of the anatomy to get the legislator's attention.

"Hello there, Jim," Eltzroth chirped as he reached out for one man's hand. "Why, hi, Clyde," the man smiled back as he shuffled over to his seat.

This process was repeated a number of times before Eltzroth moved his location out into the lobby of the Statehouse, a vantage point from which he could collar not only House members, but also

(continued on page four)

Suspensions: a misused tool?

by M. Hayes Mizell

Several weeks ago the Children's Defense Fund, a national advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., and Cambridge, Massachusetts, issued a report documenting the exclusion of more than two million school-age children from educational institutions and programs in this country.

The 366-page report was based on a sophisticated statistical analysis of data produced by the 1970 census as well as on 6,500 household interviews in 15 selected school districts across the United States.

Not only were Richland County School District No. 1 and Sumter County School District No. 2 among the districts in which the household interviews took place, but the study was conceived by Marian Wright Edelman, a native of Bennettsville, who founded and currently directs the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). Perhaps because the report was released on the Saturday preceding Christmas it received little coverage in South Carolina newspapers and the several local angles to the report's release went largely unexplored by Columbia news media.

While the CDF study found that school-age children throughout the nation are out of school for a variety of reasons -- inability to pay school fees, handicapping conditions, pregnancy, etc. -- the most startling finding concerned wholesale suspension of students from public schools in the United States. From Portland, Maine, to Holyoke, Massachusetts, to Davenport, Iowa, to Denver, Colorado, to Columbia, the suspension of public school students in widespread.

In Richland County School District No. 1 (Columbia and its environs) the greatest abuse can be found in the use of the "summary suspension" and "short-term suspension" as disciplinary techinques. Under the provisions of the Richland No. 1 *Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities* the principal of a school can summarily suspend a student "when he thinks that immediate removal of the student(s) is necessary to restore order or to protect persons of the school ground." In such an instance the principal can suspend a student for two days, the principal must then investigate the situation further and "if he thinks an additional suspension is necessary, the total suspended time shall not exceed five school days."

The only real difference between a "summary suspension" and a "short-term suspension" is that a short-term suspension must come "after investigating the misconduct" and the student may be suspended for any period of time from one to five school days. The student cannot return to the school campus before the end of the suspension except under special conditions. (Because there is so much similarity between a "summary suspension" and a "short-term suspension" we will henceforth use the term "short-term suspension" to include both types of disciplinary action.)

There is no requirement for a short-term suspension to be preceded by any type of due process such as even an informal hearing. However, once a student has been suspended his parents must receive a written notice "fully describing his misconduct, stating the rule violated, stating the principal's reasons for the action, and setting a time and place when the principal will be available for a conference with the parents not later than

(continued on page six)

Hayes Mizell is director of the South Carolina Community Relations Program of the American Friends Service Committee, located in Columbia. As an elected member of the Richland County District 1 School Board of Commissioners from January, 1971 until December, 1974, and in his capacity with AFSC, he is a close observer of Richland County public schools.

A MAGAZINE FOR COLUMBIA & SOUTH CAROLINA
osceola

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."
—press critic A.J. Liebling

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Bob Thompson
Jim Walser

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Letters

Greetings from the Lieutenant Guv

December 23, 1974

To the Editors:

I enjoyed chatting with you by telephone last week about the Democratic Charter Conference at Kansas City. I have just received and read with interest your article on this in the December 27th issue of Osceola.

It always amuses me that your editorial staff never misses the opportunity to express shock any time my actions or views agree with yours, and to always indicate that I am a "Johnny come lately" in the area of reform or change.

I haven't bothered to try to keep a record on myself during my sixteen years of public service, but sometimes I would like to sit down and go through the index of the House Journals with you on this. Last week in going over some old files on Defense of Indigents I came across the enclosed. This was not recommended as a model act by the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws until 1966, and Heyward Belser and I introduced a bill on it in February of 1967, and the principle was adopted as a law of out State in 1969. This does not seem like a burning reform issue now, but eight years ago there were a lot of people around who still felt like defendants in criminal actions could look after themselves as they had since our system of justice started.

This is just one instance, and of course doesn't make a "record," but from time to time as I come across them I am going to send you other substantiations of my position from the deep-dark past of six, eight or ten years ago.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and keep prodding us in 1975, we need it.

Sincerely,
W. Brantley Harvey, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor-elect
Box 1107
Beaufort, S.C. 29902

Kudos on a job well done

December 16, 1974

To the editors:

I have just finished reading the second of a three part story on Frank McGuire by Robert McMillan. I thoroughly enjoyed the article and am sorry to have missed the first one.

Seldom do I read every word of a newspaper story, but this one got my total concentration. A great job.

Many thanks for the reading pleasure.

Sincerely,
B.Bonnycastle Eads
637 Townes Road
Columbia, S.C. 29210

Lackey on Mackie: the finest ever

January 14, 1975

To the Editors:

I would like to congratulate your Mr. Dan Lackey on what I would consider the finest, locally-written personality feature ever to appear in the Columbia media. Of course, I refer to the January 10 article on Mackie Quave.

Without falling into the quagmire of a fawning sycophant and evading the pitfall of a condescending critic, Mr. Lackey was able to decipher the complex personality of perhaps South Carolina's most brilliant broadcast talent.

Granted, "Citizen Quave" has had his share of ups and downs and road blocks, too. The problems one faces in life should not necessarily diminish our appreciation of the raw talent which that person possesses.

Having known and worked with Mackie since the late '50's, I feel that one of the most phenomenal abilities Quave has is "in-depth feature interviewing." There is not another person in this state whose mental capacity allows him to draw on so many details to extract an interviewee's personality as does Quave.

Therefore, I thought it most appropriate that your Mr. Lackey did such a superb job in drawing out the intricate details of Mackie's personality. I cannot find any point in your article with which I can seriously disagree.

Yours truly,
Furman D. Wingate
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Letters policy

We welcome letters from our readers and will from time to time print samples of such correspondence. We reserve the write to edit for length and clarity, but will, for the most part, leave them alone. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and must be signed by the author. On certain occasions we will withhold the name of the author if it is requested, but the letter must be signed for our information.

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State House ha-ha's

With the opening of the new legislative session comes the telling of numerous new political jokes based on last year's elections. For your reading pleasure we've chosen the best two we've heard. In the interest of fair play, or whatever, we have one concerning Bryan Dorn and one concerning Pug Ravenel. First Bryan Dorn.

Q. What's Bryan Dorn doing these days?

A. Well, I've heard that he's taken a year off to work on his first novel.

Q. I didn't know he was writing a novel.

A. He isn't, he's reading one.

****

Pug Ravenel met early one morning with his former campaign director and chief strategist Marvin Chernoff and explained in a very serious tone to Chernoff, "Marvin, I had a premonition of death last night and because I believe that death will come to me soon, I would like for you to arrange for a suitable burial place for me."

Chernoff, somewhat shaken by his friend's revelation, questioned Ravenel at length about the premonition in hopes of dissuading him from pursuing the matter further. But Ravenel refused to drop the matter.

"So, what did you have in mind?" Chernoff finally asked.

"I want to be buried in the crypt where Jesus was buried in Jerusalem," Ravenel matter-of-factly announced.

Chernoff couldn't believe his ears so he asked Ravenel again and again. Pug replied that he wanted to be buried in the sacred tomb. Chernoff exclaimed, "But Pug, that's impossible."

"Oh, Marvin," Ravenel crooned. "They said it was impossible for us to win the Democratic primary, too, but you pulled that one off, so I'm sure you can handle this."

So Chernoff shrugged his shoulders and caught the next plane for the Middle East. A few weeks later a haggard, thin Chernoff shuffled into Ravenel's Charleston office.

"Well, it's done," Chernoff mumbled.

Ravenel smiled, and patted Chernoff on the back, "I knew you could do it, Marvin."

"Yea, well, I did it but it's going to cost you," Chernoff dejectly explained.

"How much?"

"Three million dollars," Chernoff mumbled.

Ravenel exploded, "Three million dollars! But Marvin, did you tell them I would only need it for three days?"

Rising star

Outgoing Lt. Governor Earle Morris told Rob Wood of the Associated Press this week that he, instead of Jim Edwards, would probably be taking the oath as the new governor of South Carolina "had it not been for a judicial fluke."

Morris, who came in a distant third in the race for the Democratic nomination, blamed his misfortune on Circuit Judge John Grimball's ruling that Charles "Pug" Ravenel was eligible to serve as governor under the state's five year residency requirement.

"I believe if Mr. Ravenel had been declared ineligible in the first court hearing, I would have defeated Congressman Dorn and won the general election," Morris speculated.

But Morris didn't -- or couldn't -- explain why he ran third, behind Dorn. Perhaps he believes that those who embraced the youth and vitality which Ravenel was so adept at projecting would have been in the Morris camp if Pug had been out of the picture.

Morris

But Earle Morris has neglected to examine the real reasons Pug Ravenel got his support and one of those reasons was that Ravenel was a new face on the scene. So when Morris told AP's Wood, "I spent 24 years getting ready for the job of governor," he explained the real reason behind his loss.

But all is not lost for Morris. He apparently is considering a job with the Edwards administration. Maybe if he plays his cards right he'll be the GOP rising star in '78.

Ready and waiting

It was like old times as Pug Ravenel worked his way into the press conference, shaking hands with members of the press as he made his way to the podium. Marvin Chernoff, former Ravenel campaign director and now a Columbia advertising executive, stood in the back of the room, the same place he stood during the days when Ravenel was riding high as Democratic nominee for governor.

Chernoff

It was this same room, the Palmetto Room in the Wade Hampton Hotel, where Ravenel held many of the press conferences which helped catapult him into a primary victory last July. Only one door down is the room in which he held a press conference last September, 30 minutes after the S.C. Supreme Court ruled him ineligible to serve as governor under the state's five year residency requirement.

Everyone at Monday's press conference remembered Ravenel trying to fight back the tears on that day just four months ago.

But Bob McAlister of WFBC-TV and radio in Greenville couldn't resist. "Mr. Ravenel," he asked, "This is the first time I've ever known a loser...to hold a press conference four months ex post facto. Why do you think what you have to say has any importance?"

Ravenel smiled and conceded that perhaps his opinions on pending legislation didn't have any relevance, but twenty reporters had shown up, hadn't they?

What this means, perhaps, is that Pug Ravenel, a man who won the election but was denied the spoils, still has a powerful hold over at least the press of the state. At that press conference he said that he would like to run for some office in 1978, but that he couldn't make any decision until the time drew closer.

And if there is any doubt as to his ability to draw on the same sources for help as he utilized in the past election one need only look to the back of the room where Marvin Chernoff stood, ready and waiting.

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Clyde Eltzroth collects his debts

(continued from page one)

senators trying to make their way to the Senate chamber.

It is here in the lobby of the legislature that Clyde Eltzroth works his hardest. When he sees a senator about to leave the Senate chamber, some 100 yards from where he is standing, Eltzroth hustles his tall, bulky frame down to the Senate end of the lobby so as to be casually standing there when the Senator emerges into the lobby.

And then it begins again: "Why, how ya doing, Joe?"

"Just fine, Clyde, just fine."

****

Gerald Smoak, a Walterboro attorney; Reeves Sams, a Beaufort attorney; and Clyde Eltzroth, a Hampton attorney, are all former members of the S.C. House of Representatives and all are campaigning for the job of judge for the state's Fourteenth Circuit. Judge William Rhodes, who currently holds that post, is expected to be elected by the legislature to fill Justice Joseph R. Moss' seat on the Supreme Court when Moss retires in June.

Sometime before June the legislature will elevate Rhodes to the Supreme Court and then tackle the more ticklish job of electing his successor. A month ago the legislature would have overwhelmingly supported only one man for the judgeship -- Clyde Eltzroth -- but in the past few weeks Eltzroth has taken a beating in the press and it appears now that his chances have dimmed.

Two weeks ago Eltzroth reported he had 114 of the 170 legislators committed to vote for him and this week he said, "I still have 114." Yet most observers believe that Eltzroth's support has been eroded to the point that he now stands a good chance of being beaten by either Smoak or Sams.

What is causing the Hampton attorney's troubles is an avalanche of editorials and news articles resurrecting a scandal which engulfed Eltzroth in 1972 as a result of his activities as Commissioner of the S.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Articles in state newspapers at that time disclosed that the Commission was involved in a number of questionable practices, including procuring boats at wholesale prices for legislators, using Wildlife Commission airplanes to shuttle legislators on private pleasure trips, and utilizing Belmont Plantation, the Wildlife Commission's game reserve, as a private country club for politicians.

An examination of these scandals provides perhaps not only an insight into why some South Carolinians feel that Clyde Eltzroth is unfit to serve on the bench, but also why so many legislators would like to see him elected to that spot regardless of his fitness.

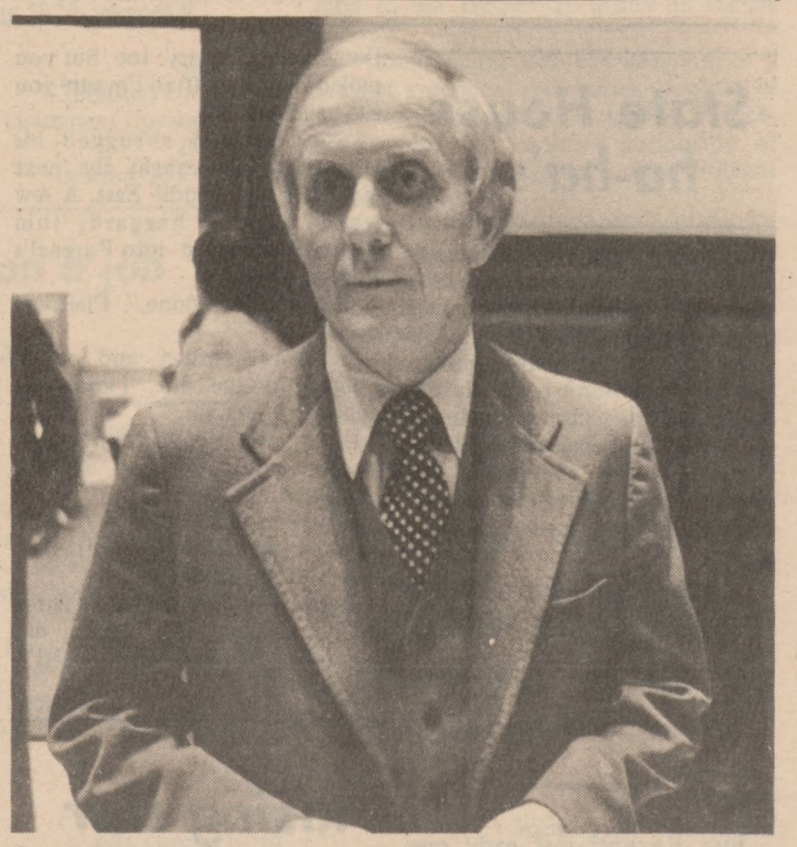
A newspaper reporter for *The State*, Ken Hare, authored a series of articles in late 1972 which showed that the Wildlife Commission's Belmont Plantation had been used by numerous legislators for personal and political purposes.

Senator Robert Lake (D-Newberry), according to Hare, reserved the plantation for his use for October 11 and 12, 1971, and in a letter to James W. Webb, director of the agency, Lake said, "I am in need of the use of Belmont Plantation for a little political rally for some of our friends." Lake reportedly said, "I don't think I will ever be able to get on an even basis with you (Webb) and Clyde (Eltzroth) as far as favors are concerned, but I stand willing to try."

Now, three years later, Lake will vote on whether or not Clyde Eltzroth is to be a judge.

But Lake is not alone in his debt to Clyde Eltzroth. Hare, in an examination of Belmont Plantation's records, determined that the following legislators made use of the facilities between October 1970 and February 1971:

Rep. and Speaker Emeritus Sol Blatt (D-Barnwell); Rep. (now Speaker) Rex Carter (D-Greenville); Rep. Clyde M. Dangerfield (D-Charleston); Sen. Rembert Dennis (D-Berkeley); Rep. Earle E. Morris (D-Pickens); Sen. Richard Riley (D-Greenville); Rep. Butler Derrick (D-Edgefield); Sen. Marshall Williams (D-Orangeburg); Sen. T. Ed Garrison (D-Anderson); Sen. John Drummond (D-Greenwood); Rep. A.J. Aycock (D-Sumter); Sen. Harry Chapman, Jr. (D-Greenville); Sen. John Martin (D-Fairfield); Sen. Robert Lake (D-Newberry); and Sen. John Long III (D-Union).



Smoak

When Eltzroth was confronted with charges of misuse of the facilities, the Commissioner responded that the Belmont facilities were open to anyone, but "We're going to give first preference to legislators."

The cost to the taxpayers for maintaining Belmont's 6000 acres was $130,000 in 1972, of which $2300 was just for feeding the dogs kept there for hunting purposes.

In August of 1972 another newspaper report alleged that legislators were using Wildlife Commission airplanes for personal and political purposes. According to Wildlife Commission records, on November 21, 1970, Sen. Rembert Dennis, a friend, and their wives were picked up in Moncks Corner by a Wildlife Commission airplane, flown to the Clemson-Carolina football game, and then flown back to Moncks Corner.

When confronted with overwhelming proof of this misuse of state property, Eltzroth replied, "Anytime Sen. Dennis or any other senator asks to fly anywhere we assume he is on state business."

In January of 1972 Eltzroth was asked to resign his position by Governor John West, but the Commissioner refused to resign because he said he felt it would be an admission of guilt. But Eltzroth finally did resign his job as Commissioner, only to retain a spot on the Commission.

On August 10, 1973, Clyde Eltzroth resigned from the Commission entirely. That move was apparently prompted by a story in *The State* which showed that Eltzroth had claimed $169 in gas mileage money from the state for a trip which he had in reality made in a Wildlife Commission airplane. Eltzroth chalked it up to a clerical error, but he still bowed out, explaining, "A public servant is public property and that's the name of the game and that's the way it should be. I have no hard feelings toward anybody. I'm just weary, very weary."

Eltzroth went back to Hampton County where he practiced law with Circuit Solicitor Randolph "Buster" Murdaugh. It is now Murdaugh, a powerful political figure in his own right, along with Rembert Dennis and others who enjoyed Eltzroth's favors in years past, who are now lobbying for Eltzroth's election.

Those who oppose Eltzroth contend that the irregularities which were committed by the Wildlife Resources Commission while it was under his control make him unfit to serve on the bench. These same individuals are now pressing for public hearings on candidates for the judgeship both as a screening device and as a method to delay legislative action on the matter. It is believed that if the election were held on the opening day of the legislature,

(continued on page five)

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Clyde Eltzroth...

(continued from page four)

Eltzroth would have been elected, but that as time wears on Eltzroth will again become "weary" of public criticism and withdraw from the race.

The outpouring of public criticism has increased in the past few weeks as every major newspaper in the state has asked editorially if Eltzroth is qualified to serve. But Eltzroth is taking the latest round of press harassment rather philosophically.

"I agree with Thomas Jefferson," Eltzroth told *Osceola*. "If faced with the choice between a government without the press or a press without the government, I would choose the latter."

While the press has been focusing on Eltzroth, most of the editorials and news stories are using this situation to point out a basic deficiency in the process utilized in this state to select not only its judges, but also many of its commissioners and other regulatory agency members. The question asked is whether the people of the state are getting the most qualified personnel when those people are selected by the legislature, without any input as to the qualifications, background or character of the applicants for the jobs.

So Rep. John LaFitte (R-Richland) has introduced a bill which would mandate public hearings to examine the qualifications of applicants for any of the positions which the legislative is empowered to fill. LaFitte's bill is the embodiment of what many of the state's newspapers have suggested in their editorials questioning Eltzroth's fitness to serve as a judge.

Initially some legislators, particularly those who made no secret of their support of Eltzroth, scoffed at the idea of public hearings, but the pressure has mounted to the point that many of these individuals are now supporting LaFitte's proposal.

Two legislators who are publicly pledged to Eltzroth -- Marion Gressette, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Bobby Kneece, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee -- say now that they favor the public hearing process.

There are some Eltzroth supporters who believe that the hearing process will vindicate their man, but the consensus is that Gressette's and Kneece's acquiescence means that Eltzroth is losing ground quickly. One lawyer, a long time acquaintance of Eltzroth, said, "If it comes to that (hearings), Clyde will back out and remove his name from the running."

Early next week, the first full working week of the legislative session, the people of South Carolina will begin to receive their first indications as to the nature of the new legislature. The issue transcends Eltzroth, Smoak and Sams. Rather, it goes straight to the meat of the matter -- does this state want to continue to have its public officials selected in the lobby and back halls of the legislature, or will the process be forced out into the open where every candidate has to face the glare of public scrutiny?

JACK ANDERSON

AND THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Tough times for the economy

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, insiders facetiously suggest, may have been speaking out of sheer frustration when he rattled his sword and raised the spectre of a Middle East oil war.

The year gone by was, after all, a tough one for America's energy planners. Consider what has transpired since the Arab oil embargo:

—Kissinger, the diplomatic superstar, has tried to talk the Arabs into lowering their oil prices. Summoning up his noted gifts of persuasion, he attempted to convince the oil sheikhs that exorbitant prices would hurt them in the long run. The result: the Arabs raised their prices.

—On the home front, meanwhile, "Project Independence" was launched. It aimed at making the United States self-sufficient in energy production by 1985. But domestic oil production is down nearly five per cent from last year, despite record profits for the oil companies. Coal production has also been extremely disappointing.

—The voluntary oil conservation program has met with only mild success. The Federal Energy Administration estimates that Americans still waste as much energy as Japan uses.

President Ford will include some tough new conservation measures in his upcoming economic package. But unless he produces a master plan for the international energy problem, the crisis will only get worse in 1975.

Fringe Benefits

The unemployment lines are growing longer, but there is one group of jobless Americans who aren't suffering. They are the defeated members of Congress whose terms ran out on January 2.

Congress had thoughtfully provided a pension plan for those who fail to get re-elected. It contains all manner of clauses rarely found in industrial contracts.

Just a nominal contribution from their congressional salaries will qualify lawmakers, after they retire, for as much as $31,875 a year. Pensions are also paid on top of any Social Security or private retirement plans.

And those who want to continue on the public payroll, if they have the right political credentials, can use the White House as an unemployment office.

The Administration will usually find an ambassadorship or some other political appointment for defeated but deserving Republicans.

Hungry Americans

The world is slowly waking up to the fact that people are dying of starvation in Asia, Africa and Latin America. A shocking 10,000 men, women and children starve to death every week.

The United States is doing more than any other nation to rush food to the famine areas. But efforts to provide food for our own hungry people have been scaled down in the name of economy.

President Ford recently announced a cutback in the food stamp program. This will hurt the sick and elderly the most. Under the new plan, for example, a retired worker living on a $150 monthly Social Security check would have to pay $45 for $46 worth of food stamps. He would, in other words save only a dollar.

The government will also stop publicizing the program. Those in remote areas of those who are undereducated — as many of the hungry are — now must find out how to get food stamps by themselves, somehow.

Washington Whirl

Apparently concerned over the bad image the White House "plumbers" team has given the pipe-fitting profession, the American-Standard plumbing supply firm has hired a public relations company to spread the word that plumbers are really nice guys. The image-makers recently mailed out commemorative pewter plates emblazoned with a porcelain portrait of an antique water closet...

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Abused children, misused schools

Part one of a two-part series

(continued from page one)

three days after the date of the suspension." There is also a clear appeal procedure which outlines how the suspension may be challenged, but this procedure is infrequently used by parents.

The *Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities* makes no provision for suspending a student from one or more classes by assigning him to a special referral center or study hall on a temporary basis. In fact, the district's disciplinary code makes it clear that "the removal of a student from his class by the classroom teacher, principal, or other authorized school personnel for the remainder of the subject period of school day and his location in the another room on the school premises shall not be considered a short-term suspension." Under the Richland No. 1 policies, then, a short-term suspension can only mean putting a student out of school.

In Richland No. 1 the Children's Defense Fund found that 22.9 percent of the secondary school students were suspended during the 1972-73 school year. CDF also surveyed two census tracts in the school district. Census Tract 22 includes Millwood Avenue and Trenholm Road. The study reports that of the school-age children surveyed there only about four percent had been suspended at least once during the school year. Census Tract Five was also surveyed. It is mixed income and predominantly black area in the Eau Claire section of Columbia, extending from the Latimer Manor housing project to Colonial Drive to Columbia College Drive. In that area, 12 percent of the school-age children surveyed had been suspended at least once.

As is the case with any research project, the CDF had to isolate a particular point in time for its study. The data in the study, therefore, reflects suspension data from the 1972-73 school year and does not include statistical information which has become available since that time.

Under a policy passed by the Richland No. 1 Board of School Commissioners in February, 1973, each school principal must submit six-week reports on the suspensions in his school. The report forms include spaces for the name of the student suspended, his race, his grade, the date the offense was committed, a brief description of the offense, the name of the teacher reporting the offense, the name of the subject if the offense was for cutting class, and the number of days the student was suspended. The policy requires principals to "keep a copy of this report in your files along with the individual suspension notices to parents for future reference," but there is no indication of how long these records should be kept.

The data on short-term suspensions, long-term suspensions, and expulsions in Richland No. 1 is kept by the district's Director of Pupil Accounting. At the end of the six "attendance periods" during the school year, this data is compiled on a school-by-school basis and reported to the Board of School Commissioners. The data is public information but is generally not made available to the news media unless it is specifically requested. Perhaps school officials feel the data might be misunderstood, taken out of context, or generate controversies which would harm the school system.

Because of the way in which the suspension data is compiled in the school district's central office it is unclear on the cumulative report the school board receives how many *students* have been suspended as opposed to how many *suspensions* have occurred. If an individual school reports Johnny Jones was suspended three separate times that will show up on the cumulative report as three suspensions. If the report shows there have been 100 suspensions at a high school this does not mean 100 individuals have been suspended. It merely means 100 separate cases of suspension -- perhaps several for the same individual -- have been recorded. Using this data, then, it would not be correct to say 11 percent of the students at the school have been suspended, if the school has 900 students, but it would be fair to say the suspensions *represent* 11 percent of the school's enrollment.

Richland No. 1 didn't begin keeping good statistical information on short-term suspensions in all schools until the second semester of the 1973-1974 school year, but from January through May of that year 4,044 students were suspended for a total of 9,911 days. Of that number 3,144 were black and 900 were white. The school district's enrollment is about 60 percent black and 40 percent white. The main causes of the suspensions were listed as "cutting classes," "disruptive," and "fighting."

The 1973-1974 school year was the first for which accurate data was compiled on short-term suspensions in every school for the entire year. In that year 6,350 students were suspended for a total of 17,410 days. According to the Richland No. 1 data 5,116 of the suspended students were black and 1,234 were white. "Disruptive," "cutting classes," and "fighting" were again cited as the primary reasons for the suspensions.

During the first two attendance periods (August 29-October 18; October 21-November 27) of the 1974-1975 school year 2,359 short-term suspensions were recorded and of that number 1,858 were among blacks and 501 were among whites. The total number of days missed because of short-term suspensions was 5,718. The number of suspensions at Columbia High School was so extensive that they represented one-third of the total student enrollment. At St. Andrews Junior High the suspensions came to 23 percent ot the enrollment. It would appear that during the current school year the district's rate of short-term suspensions is at least comparable to that of the 1973-1974 year.

Most of the short-term suspensions in Richland No. 1 are given to junior high, middle school, and high school students. During the 1973-1974 school year 37 percent of the short-term suspensions occurred at the junior high and middle school level while 58 percent were in the secondary schools.

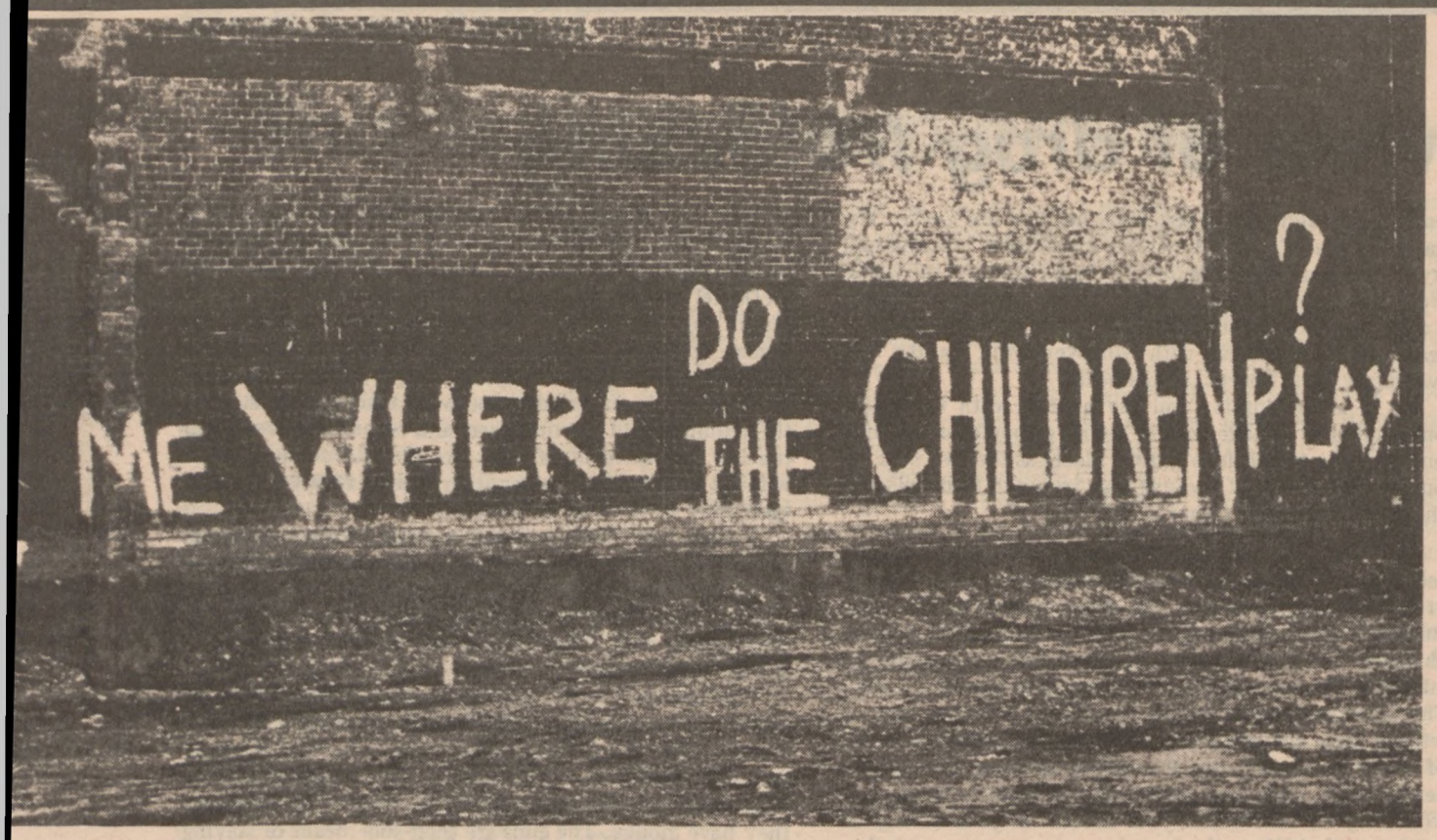
As a matter of practice, short-term suspensions are given for a wide-range of disciplinary offenses. A student may violate any one of the rules included in the "lanudry list" of misbehavior in the Richland No. 1 discipline code, or he may commit an offense which, in the judgement of the principal, threatens to disrupt the school. Because there are few absolute objective standards which school personnel can apply to a student's behavior, what does and does not represent "suspendable behavior" depends largely on the judgement and discretion of the teachers and administrators. What one teacher considers as "disrespect" or "disobedience" may not be seen in the same way by another teacher. Just as clearly as there are emergency situations in which it is necessary to remove a student from campus, there are also disciplinary violations which present problems and cause inconvenience to school authorities but which do not threaten the security of the school community. Just as surely as students can be violent and disruptive, school personnel can be arbitrary and capable of over-reacting. The short-term suspension has a legitimate place as an emergency measure, but when it is used on a scale such as in Richland No. 1, it is appropriate to examine its purpose and effect.

Richland No. 1 school officials explain the rationale for the short-term suspension is "to get the attention of the parent." The theory is the suspension signals the parent that the school has tried to correct the child's disciplinary problem but there has been little success and he is heading for real trouble. By sending the student home it is thought the seriousness of his misbehaviour is brought to the attention of the parents, they will intervene, and there will then follow a parent-administrator conference in which the matter can be more thoroughly discussed and, hopefully, resolved. This rationale, however, is not unique to Richland No. 1. The Children's Defense Fund report includes quotes from school officials throughout the nation who give the same explanation.

Yet, this rationale is based on certain assumptions which are open to challenge. It assumes the student who is suspended comes from a stable home with "middle-class values" and a high regard for education. It assumes the parents are available to attend a conference with the administrator and it assumes there will be someone who is home to receive the child when he is suspended or to inquire about the monitor and his behavior and performance in school. It assumes the parents can control the child and that he has only limited options available to him, either as an alternative to school or as an alternative to living with his parents. It assumes the student has achieved adequate success in school to the point that he and his parents see his continued attendance as vital to his future. Finally, it assumes both the student and his family believe they have or can achieve a meaningful place in the social and/or economic order of our society, and that they value the role of public education as a means to that end.

Because Richland No. 1 has not developed a statistical, educational, or sociological profile of the "average" student who receives one or more short-term suspensions, no one can speak with certainty about the type of student who is most likely to receive such disciplinary action. But the dominant impression of those familiar with these students is that all of the assumptions on which the rationale for short-term suspensions is based simply do not apply. The fact is that many students who are suspended have not succeeded in school and they certainly are not part of the student body "power structure." They have little stake in the system, either educationally or socially. While their parents may be deeply committed to public education as a vehicle of upward mobility, it is likely both parents work (*if* both parents are in the home, or *if* the student lives with his natural parents) and are unable to summon the energy or the know-how to effectively monitor every aspect of their children's relationship with the school. These parents usually have jobs which make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to take time off from work to consult with school personnel about their children's problems in school. Many parents are unable to cope with the daily backlash of adolescence at home, much less to control or influence their children while at school. Even though these realities are recognized by teachers and administrators in individual schools, Richland No. 1 continues to defend the rationale for the use of short-term suspensions.

What about short-term suspensions as a disciplinary device? All of us want a certain minimal amount of order in our public schools, certainly enough to allow the



educational process to go on without significant disruption. All of us want schools which are safe, secure, and which foster tolerance and respect for the rights of others. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect school officials to use disciplinary techniques which serve these ends and which correct and prevent misbehavior that jeopardizes the rights of others. But does the free use of short-term suspensions achieve this end? There is no evidence it does. If short-term suspensions really worked would it be necessary to suspend students over and over again? If they really produced the effective intervention of the parent and if they corrected and prevented misbehavior, would it be necessary to repeatedly suspend the same students?

In light of the available data we can only conclude that short-term suspensions do not really prevent or correct disciplinary problems, and that some students receive multiple suspensions throughout the school year. Most principals will tell you their disciplinary problems are caused by only a small percentage of the students, usually less than five or ten percent of the enrollment. If this is true, the suspension data would seem to indicate these students are being repeatedly suspended. How else can we explain that the suspensions at Columbia High School during the second semester of the 1973-1974 school year represented 43 percent of the students enrolled there? During the same period 32 percent of the enrollment at Gibbes Middle School was suspended, 30 percent at Olympia Middle School, and 18 percent at Crayton Middle School. For the district as a whole, 15 percent of the total number of students in junior high, middle, and high schools were represented by the number of suspensions given between January 21 and May 30, 1974. Because of these high percentages, we must conclude either that some students receive multiple suspensions and therefore such suspensions represent punishment, not an effective effort to correct behavior problems or prevent future misbehavior, or we must conclude that large numbers of individual students are being suspended.

Not only do short-term suspensions appear to be an ineffective disciplinary technique, they may actually compound one of the major problems they attempt to correct. During the first two attendance periods of this school year at least 37 percent of all suspensions in Richland No. 1 were for class-cutting, truancy, tardiness, or leaving school grounds without permission. Of the 118 suspensions given at A.C. Flora, over half were for cutting class. At Keenan 41 percent of the suspensions were for class cutting while at Columbia High School 235 out of 325 suspensions were for a combination of class-cutting and truancy. And at St. Andrews Junior High School, 47 percent of the suspensions were for cutting class.

Thus, short-term suspensions might be considered a reward instead of a remedy. Students who want to be out of school or want to escape the responsibility of attending class find if they don't come to school or if they cut class, their non-attendance is increased and legitimized when they are suspended. They don't want to come to school so the school system tells them, "You are suspended, don't come to school." The "logic" of such a system, one S.C. State Department of Education official opined, is like that of prescribing forced feeding for a man suffering from obesity.

The Richland No. 1 Board of School Commissioners recently passed a policy on truancy and class cutting which affirms the Board's strong belief that school-age children should be in school. Yet, the administrative procedures for implementing that policy make it clear if a student consistently misses school or cuts classes he can be placed on short-term suspension, or even be recommended for long-term suspension or expulsion! "If you're really serious about not coming to school," the Board seems to be saying, "we'll try to accommodate you." This kind of complicity in undermining the intent of the Compulsory School Attendance Law should not escape public attention.

There is another facet of short-term suspensions which should be of concern to Richland No. 1. The overwhelming number of suspensions are received by black students. In 1973-1974 black students received 80 percent of the suspensions in the school system. The number of suspensions among black students represented 25 percent of the total black enrollment in the system, and 45 percent of the black enrollment in junior high, middle, and high schools. In the first two attendance periods of the 1974-1975 school year the suspensions among black students at Columbia High School represented 48 percent of the black enrollment there. At St. Andrews Junior High School the figure was 41 percent. According to the Children's Defense Fund report, 35 percent of the black male students surveyed in Census Tract Five had been suspended at least once during the 1972-1973 school year.

Only Columbia's black community can determine how long it will be before it raises strong questions about these suspensions in Richland No. 1. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's (HEW) Office for Civil Rights in Atlanta has already done so. When Richland No. 1 last applied for federal funds under the Emergency School Assistance Act, OCR asked the district to explain the large number of suspensions among blacks before it would clear the district's application. The district submitted detailed documentation to HEW in an effort to show that no racial discrimination had been present in the suspensions, and ultimately the Office for Civil Rights cleared the application and Richland No. 1 subsequently received more than $900,000 in ESAA funds. It should be noted, however, that groups such as the Southern Regional Council and the Children's Defense Fund have been highly critical of HEW for that agency's lethargy in probing the large number of black suspensions in school districts in the South and throughout the nation. The pressure may be off for now but in the evolving world of civil rights enforcement few things are certain for the future; any citizen can submit a complaint to HEW at any time.

Richland No. 1 officials are sensitive about the large number of suspensions among black students and they are uncomfortable when questions regarding the suspensions are raised. It is their sincere belief no discrimination has been involved and while the facts may not be easy to accept, in their opinion the truth is black students tend to misbehave more than white students.

A situation could arise, however, in which such an explanation would not necessarily be considered an adequate defense. In the summer of 1974 a U.S. District Court judge in Texas ruled the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) was guilty of "racism which, in the opinion of this Court, is the chief cause of the disproportionate number of blacks being suspended."

In Dallas the student enrollment is 41 percent black, 47 percent white, and the remainder is Chicano. But the Court found whites accounted for 31 percent of the suspensions. According to the judge's order, "These unrebutted statistics establish that there exists within the Dallas Independent School District a disproportionate suspension ratio between black and white students." One wonders what a federal judge would say about a school district where the student enrollment is 60 percent black but 80 percent of the suspensions are black, while the white enrollment is 40 percent but whites account for only 20 percent of the suspensions.

To further strengthen the data the plaintiffs in the Dallas case presented an expert witness who had "conducted an extensive analysis (of the suspension data) by using a method termed the Chi Square formula." The results of the expert's study indicated that "black students *are* being suspended from school significantly more frequently than are white students."

Having been satisfied as to the effect of the suspensions, the judge went on to consider "the reasons for this disproportion." The plaintiffs presented another expert witness "qualified as an expert with respect to institutional racism within the educational system having studied 1,163 educational institutions in 50 states."

The expert witness testified that he had examined the suspension data in Dallas and had found it "fit into an existing national pattern of race discrimination in that the DISD is a 'white controlled institution' with 'institutional racism' existing in the operation of its discipline procedures." In her order the judge paraphrased the testimony of the expert:

> A "white controlled institution" occurs...when a large majority of the decisions about resource distribution is made by white administrators. "Institutional racism" exists...when the standard operating procedures of an institution are prejudiced against, derogatory to, or unresponsive to the needs of a particular group. This is distinguished from "personal racism" which exists within a given individual and does not become involved in the administration of an institution's normal operations. Because of the existence of racism...black students will become more frustrated as the institution continues to refuse their needs and ambitions. This frustration will be reflected either in increased passivity or increased hostility ("suspendable behavior").

To some these words will be seen as directly applicable to Richland No. 1; to others they will seem like so much hogwash. The important point is the Texas judge was convinced by both the data and the argument above. She ordered the Dallas Independent School District to "initiate an affirmative program aimed at the removal of institutional racism by programs affecting institutional and structural changes, the training of teachers and counselors, the training of students to deal with institutional racism, and activation of community and environmental programs of similar affirmative action." By any standard that mandate is a rather large order and it is yet to be seen how successfully the Dallas school system will implement it.

While raising the issue of "institutional racism" may be an appropriate and necessary legal strategy, it is a term likely to be widely misunderstood and to make already harried teachers and administrators more defensive and less willing to deal with the problem of suspensions. Certainly the fact that black students are the victims to an overwhelming degree deserves serious attention by the community and by the school system because many of these students are the very ones who need to be in school the most and who have the most to gain from it. The point is that while *who* is suspended is a legitimate matter of concern, the heart of the problem is the use of suspensions -- against black or white students -- as a harmful, counter-productive, and illogical disciplinary technique. Perhaps defining the problem in terms of "cultural conflict" would enable all parties concerned to examine their own roles with less passion, to analyze the problem in all of its complex dimensions, and to be more open to making changes that are required.

Our schools, after all, do have a cultural orientation and expectation. The great majority of our teachers and administrators in Richland No. 1 come from homes (poor, middle-class, advantaged, black, or white) which stressed courtesy, respect, honesty, work, punctuality, and authority. They attended teacher training institutions where they were prepared to teach in schools where those values were dominant. The social upheavals of the 1960s, which are still being felt today, could not be foreseen. The time when the validity of these values would no longer be assumed could not be anticipated. Because some of these values were rooted in, and perceived as a defense for, a racist culture, they became identified with white power and oppression.

In the post-desegregation era, however, the preparation which teachers and administrators received proved to be inadequate to the reality of the multi-cultural school. To their credit many of them have made a magnificient adjustment to this new setting. For others each day is an experience of inner struggle in which they try to determine what is right, what is fair, and what is in the best interest of the student and the school. Mistakes in judgement are made. Students are sometimes quick to take advantage of an uncertain and confused teacher. Attitudes shaped by movements, racism, racial consciousness, and superficial ideologies and philosophies invariably collide. In short, for those accustomed to operating in a uni-cultural setting our schools present real challenges and difficulties.

Next week: some solutions

Books

An existential view of drug trafficking

THE JONES MEN
by Vern E. Smith
287 Pages. Regnery. $7.95

Vern E. Smith, a 27-year-old native of Natchez, Mississippi, and a journalist with *Newsweek*, has a winner his first time out in his novel *The Jones Men.*

The Jones men are drug dealers and the story is that of Lennie Jack, a Jones man, who is something of an existentialist. He watched his own blood pour from him in torrents when he was wounded in Vietman and now he is unafraid and uncaring. He exists in a world he never made, living by the rules of that world. In this world there is no morality, no integrity, no right, no wrong. What there is is "heh-rawn" (heroin), who has it, how much is it worth and who is going to get it.

Lennie Jack is a low level drug dealer. But he is ambitious and wants to become a major supplier. Standing in his way is Willis McDaniel, a ruthless ex-convict who controls the drug traffic on the West Side of New York City. To get where he is to where McDaniel is, Lennie Jack needs a stake, and he gets it by hijacking a shipment of McDaniel's drugs.

To find out when the drug shipment is coming in, Lennie Jack employs an addict named Foxy Newton to spy on the drug houses. But Newton is coming up soon on a possession charge and in an attempt to lighten his sentence he goes to the narcotics agents with just enough information about the hijacking to interest them.

The two antagonists, McDaniel and Lennie Jack, play a deadly hide and seek all over the West Side. McDaniel has his own henchmen; Lennie Jack goes into hiding until the bodyguards and paid assassins he has sent for arrive. The narcotics agents, using Newton's incomplete information, try to find Lennie Jack before McDaniel does and the whole West Side turns into a blood bath. In the meantime, keeping a close watch on the situation is the syndicate -- the whites -- ready to do business with whoever wins. In the end everybody loses. Except the syndicate.

So it is the hunter and the hunted, with the nights punctuated by gunfire and the sound of bodies wrapped in burlap being tossed into hidden places as the two men act out the classic tale of a young man trying to find a place in the sun by killing the father figure.

But Vern E. Smtih has done more than write a rousing action story. *The Jones Men*, without ever once moralizing or commenting, portrays the sheer horror of the drug culture in black communities in the United States. Not one character in the story has a shred of compassion, of integrity, of human dignity, or caring, or a code of any kind. The only motivation is the heroin. There is no talk of retiring from the business, of getting away to the country, of going legitimate. But it is drive, drive, drive. Get the heroin, cut it, sell it, keep an eternal watch out for those who would try to take either your heroin or your money or both, and kill anybody who you even suspect has intimations of either. Such a life destroys the human personality.

All of the characters in *The Jones Men* are one-dimensional. Many of them have no names at all. They are known as the man in the leather jacket and the goatseed man. Those who have names have no personalities. There is no difference between K.C. Thomas, the hired killer who is himself killed, and Trolley, the hired killer, who supplies the surprise ending to the story. Neither Lennie Jack nor Willis McDaniel has any recognizable human qualities. This is as it should be, for the fine white powder has destroyed all human relationships in this city with no name. It could be Inner City, USA (the horrifying thought is that it probably is). There is no camaraderie between black brothers. Both the criminals and the informers and other hangers-on, and the law enforcement officials are black. But they all are without concern for one another. Blood relatives turn on each other when drugs are involved.

Women count for absolutely nothing. In the most brutal scene in the book, two prostitutes who have the misfortune of being present in a house where McDaniel's men are looking for information about the hijacking are mercilessly slaughtered. Foxy Newton's friend has no name -- she is simply "the white girl."

The men are better known for the kinds of cars they drive: the Fleetwood, the El Dorado, the Grand Prix, the Thunderbird and the guns they carry: the Magnum, the carbines, the sawed off shotguns. For the expensive cars are their signatures, the sign that in the poverty of the inner city they have money. The guns are their sole means of staying alive. But, though they drive expensive cars and deal in truly large sums of money, they are still hemmed in, confined to the inner city. For it is here that they find their customers, feeding on other blacks; and when the violence starts, it is other blacks who are the victims. The Jones men, however, are not the true powers, for they depend on whites to give them the drugs that will make them important in their own communities. For if this supply is cut off, they too will join the nameless job seekers, welfare recipients and petty criminals -- the statistics of the ghetto. Though some of the dealers are aware of their dependence on whites for their maintenance in power -- Willie McDaniel, for example, is trying to make an Asian connection -- the situation at the end of the story is the same as it was at the beginning.

The Jones Men is a chilling indictment of a society that would send a young man thousands of miles from home to risk his life in a foreign country, only to return to a land where the only alternative to the street is the unemployment line or welfare or poorly paid, unskilled jobs.

Mary E. Mebane

Mary E. Mebane is associate professor of English at the University of South Carolina and formerly taught at South Carolina State in Orangeburg.

CLASSIFIED

For rent

Contemporary four-bedroom ocean-front beachhouse for rent, weekends or by the week. Electric heat, shag-carpeting, dishwasher, large deck overlooking ocean. Near Charleston. Call 799-2091 after 5 p.m..

For sale

One KLH Model 55 AM/FM Stereo Receiver plus two KLH Model 32 two-way speaker systems. Must sell; still warranted. Call 799-3848.

1971 BMW Motorcycle 60/5. 23,000 miles. Many extras. Excellent condition. $1600. 1-635-3550 (Winnsboro)

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Wanted

Responsible young couple would like to do repairs and minor remodeling on old home in Richland or Lexington County in exchange for rent. Contact Mike or Linda Forth at 776-2926.

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"Explore, enjoy and preserve..." with the Columbia Sierra Club group. Monthly meetings and outings of all kinds. Everyone is welcome. For more info, call 252-3119 or 782-5172.

Short courses at Sparkleberry: "Basic Loom Weaving," beginning Jan. 30 and Feb. 22. "Designing and Building Your Own House," workshops: Jan. 28 thru Feb. 1, lab classes begin Feb. 8. For information and/or registration call 359-6723.

The Backpacker is pleased to have Lou Whittaker, world famous mountain climber, in its store Monday, January 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Stop by.

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"K2, A PREVIEW"

WHAT: K2, at 28,250 feet; the world's second highest mountain.
WHERE: The Karakorum Range, on the border of Pakistan and China, an area closed to climbing for the last 15 years.
HOW: The unknown, unattempted West Ridge, requiring technical rock climbing at altitudes where men can barely stay alive, even with oxygen.
WHEN: Starting next April and aiming for the summit during July or August.
WHO: Eight of the toughest, most experienced climbers in the U.S. led by Jim Whittaker, the first American to climb Mt. Everest.
WHY: Expedition member, Lou Whittaker, Jim's twin brother, will explain just why this new and difficult mountain is considered such a challenge to the world's great climbers; "an ultimate test of men and their equipment."

SLIDE PRESENTATION
January 20, Monday
8:15 p.m.
Room 015 Calcott
(Old B.A. Building)
at USC

Sports/Super Bore IX

This is the championship game?

THE SUPER BOWL
on NBC
January 12, 1975

It is only the morning after Super Bowl IX, yet almost the entire game has slipped from my memory bank -- "like crap through a goose," to use General Patton's vivid metaphor in the appropriate gladiatorial tradition.

I do remember that Pittsburgh won by some queer score (16-6?), but the only play I recall off-hand was something of a circus stunt: Minnesota quarterback Fran Tarkenton caught one of his own passes (it bounced off Pittsburgh's "Steel Wall") and heaved it again for a beautifully illegal completion 35 or 40 yards downfield, hypothetically deep into Pittsburgh territory. I recall this one play above all the rest because there seemed to be such a strong lackadaisical, if spectacular, futility in that bogus throw. It epitomized Tarkenton's by-then-overtly frustrated flamboyance, and it made me wonder if the mythopoeic clock hadn't crept so far past the climax of the season that we were now back to August, watching an exhibition throw-away a benefit, perhaps, for NBC sports.

Certainly, nearly everyone had agreed that *a* championship game, if not *the* championship game, had already been played three weeks earlier between Miami and Oakland, but the televised treatment of this Pittsburgh--Minnesota anti-climax -- a consolation game in spirit -- by play-by-play man Curt Gowdy, along with commentators, Dummy Don Meredith and the ever-humorless Al DeRogatis almost made one want to forgive Jules Bergman and ABC for their rank and ingratiating affiliation with Evel Knievel Enterprises last September.

The last Big Sunday was as dismal as a Rose Parade at Buchenwald: Curt knew it. Don knew it, probably even Al DeRogatis knew it -- and everyone knows that Al DeRogatis wouldn't know a boring game if it sat on his face and suffocated him. Yet even as the fellows were mulling over one of Minnesota's most dubious achievements -- 17 yards rushing for the full 60 minutes -- they kept desperately fibbing with a pious exuberance that would make even the most fervid Howard-hater thirst for a drop of Cosell's ultra-healthy cynicism. "I think," said poor Al DeRogatis, stumbling for adequate words, "I think, well, the outstanding thing about this game is -- well...the *enormity* of it all."

As everyone knows by now, the Super Bowl is regarded from a cold hard distance as nothing more than the official end to Super Bowl *Week*, the Mardi Gras of vacationing journalists and the corporate elite. It was sad to see these three genuine, if befuddled, lovers of the game itself trying to pump air into the most deflated pseudo-event since the debacle at Snake River Canyon.

Even the half-time "activities" (with that perennial nemesis to the good name of popular culture, the Marching Band), always something of a big hole in the middle of a television football spectacular, were Extraordinarily Sad at this years' Super Bowl. "A Tribute to Duke Ellington" had the Duke Ellington Band dwarfed on a silly float near the sidelines, accompanied by the Grambling College Marching Band who did their sprite, soulful steps around and about another "Duke Memorial" float in the center of the field; but, alas, the tube provides no depth perception for a brass band extravaganza, and the Grambling Marchers looked like a swarm of ants on the sidewalk crawling up and down a dirty piece of coconut candy.

After the Pittsburgh triumph we were presented with the obligatory statistical round-up and promised the obligatory trip to the winners' dressing room. I shuddered. The bulk of sports interviews, excepting of course those classic caricatures conducted by Cosell, are embarrassing to me. The players always seem like dupes prodded by the press into mouthing for Mom at home the familiar inane cliches. These emotive conversations under the guise of this or that bit of game "analysis" are no longer even a suitable subject for comedic satire, and what a dread-not production was wrought as Don and Al, camera and crew, and a Liberace-looking fellow named Charlie Jones descended upon the Steeler showers to dissect "the thrill of victory." Let's face it, sports fans, analysis is manly and emotion is beautiful, but when the game is gone there isn't much that can be said about it that can't be summed up with a whoopee or a boo. Super Bore IX has come and gone: boo!

Dan Lackey

Cinema

Disney's 'nostalgic disaster' flick is just that

Somethings just happen automatically: day follows night, night follows day; Old Faithful erupts every sixty-five or so minutes; and Walt Disney Studios release a feature film every year at Christmas. In times past, a film like *Island at the Top of the World* would be a good one for children and nothing else. Faced with competition from such "biggies" as *Earthquake* and *The Towering Inferno*, though, the Disney people decided to go a little too far, producing what may be the first "nostalgic disaster" flick.

That's really too bad, too, because *Island at the Top of the World* has a lot going for it. David Hartman may not be Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, or Charlton Heston, but he makes for an amiable and sincere hero, an American anthropologist who finally agrees to deliver Sir Anthony (Donald Sinden), a British lord in search of his missing heir, to the farthest recesses of the Artic Circle. The story, adapted from Ian Cameron's novel *The Wild Ones*, adds a Jules Verneish-touch of fantasy to realistic adventure, sort of like a mixture of *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. It's melodramatic, to be sure, but with humor and imagination. It's the kind of story which could be transformed into an enchanting entertainment -- the type of film one used to expect from Disney, but which, sadly, can never be reproduced.

Director Robert Stevenson is an old Disney stalwart. He's noderately successful in handling his actors. Hartman and Sinden, reduced by Whedon's script to the status of dummies, struggle to maintain some control over their scenes and usually succeed. Mako (McQueen's aide in *The Sand Pebbles*) gives excellent support as an Eskimo who becomes an unwilling member of Sir Anthony's party. His comic performances redeem the film in many ways.

I really didn't mind the obviously mechanical fish which jump out of the ocean nor the odd-shaped dirigible which presented some fine abstract shots. But the volcano which eventually erupts proved too much. It was the same old volcano which the Disney people have done (and I think poorly) for years. I remember as a child being totally unimpressed by Disney volcano eruptions. Somehow I always knew that a volcano was more than red animation superimposed over a landscape of mountains. Disney does tidal waves much, much better.

Mike Smith

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Music

Awards '74 marks the return of Top Forty

I had just finished the feature article of a recent *Osceola*, when sleep overtook me and into dreamland I departed. Suddenly materializing in my rock and roll conscious was Mackie Quave on "Pro News" interviewing David Bowie, Dr. Hunter Thompson and Danny Traylor on the topic "Elton John: 1974's Greatest Star." I immediately awoke in a cold sweat, shouted "Holy Clive Davis, 1974 couldn't have been that bad," and began to reconstruct in my mind the year just past.

1974 was a year when that relic of the past -- the 45 RPM single -- reasserted inself. In the 1970's, music formula has called for potential hit singles to be culled from already released albums. In the 1960's the pattern was just the opposite. A hit single was the standard by which the recording industry rated musical accomplishment and its success was a necessary quotient for even releasing an album. Remember the days when you intently listened to the radio for the release of a new Beatles' 45 or the latest song by the Supremes or Temptations. But alas, the album took over and the singles market and charts became dominated by a 12-year-old's idea of what music should be.

Now a lot of people are back listening to the Top Forty and what is to be found there is not that bad at all. There are some familiar faces such as old-times Neil Sedaka and The Righteous Brothers attempting comebacks, and the Gamble-Huff Philadelphia International organization is producing some of the finest records around. On the softer side, Joni Mitchell, Anne Murray, Harry Chapin, and Gordon Lightfoot have all enjoyed banner years and the big boppers such as Bachman-Turner, The Rolling Stones, Mott, and Elton John were also well-represented on the singles airwaves.

Joni Mitchell

Prediction: look for 45's to continue to improve (witness Paul McCartney's "Junior's Farm") and in doing so dislodge many "oldies" from the playlists.

In other areas, no discernible trends occurred. Glitter rock seemed to fade and '60's stars such as The Who, Rolling Stones, and ex-Beatles continued to prosper, though not producing the quality recordings they are capable of. Country rock waned with poor showings by Poco, New Riders, the Souther-Hillman-Furay Band, and the electrification of the Eagles. The slack in country was assumed by Linda Ronstadt and Jackson Browne and earlier day cosmic cowboys such as Waylon Jennings and Jerry Jeff Walker. On the rhythm and blues side, funky groups like Graham Central Station, Rufus, Kool and the Gang, and Ohio Players battled on even terms with standbys like James (GFOS) Brown, Spinners, and Al Green. 1974 was the year of much heralded Bob Dylan/Band tour, the re-birth of Eric Clapton, and late year concert appearances by George Harrison. Groups such as Bachman-Turner sold out concerts and plenty of albums, and signalled their readiness to break into rock's upper echelon.

But on to my Awards for '74:

Top Singles
I Can Help - Billy Swan
A Dream Goes On Forever - Todd Rundgren
The Air That I Breathe - The Hollies
Rock Your Baby - George McCrae
Rings - Lobo
You Won't See Me - Anne Murray
When Will I See You Again - Three Degrees

Worst Singles
Billy Don't Be A Hero - Heywoods
(You're) Having My Baby - Paul Anka
The Night Chicago Died - Paper Lace

Top Albums
Band on the Run - Paul McCartney & Wings
Late for the Sky - Jackson Browne
Court and Spark - Joni Mitchell
Good Ole Boys - Randy Newman
Eldorado - Electric Light Orchestra
Bad Company - Bad Company
Love Song - Anne Murray

Worst Albums
Stop All That Jazz - Leon Russell
Diamond Dogs - David Bowie
Sweet Exorcist - Curtis Mayfield
Wonder World - Uriah Heep
Quatro - Suzi Quatro

Special Citations
A. Award for loudest monotony - Bachman-Turner Overdrive
B. William Simon Award - Uriah Heep (If there is indeed a gasoline shortage and petroleum is used in the manufacturing of albums, "Wonder World" should be melted down and sold as fuel)
C. Titus Turner "Grits Ain't Groceries" Award - Al Green
D. Martin Mull Award - Portsmouth Sinfonia
E. Patricia Hearst Award for Best Disappearance - Allman Brothers
F. Tracy Nelson Award for Most Promise and Least Results - Maggie Bell
G. Living In The Past Award - Sly Stone
H. Best New Group - UFO
I. Best Female Performer - Joni Mitchell
J. Best Male Performer - John Dean
K. Best Group - Mott the Hoople
L. Best Carolina Colesium Show - Seals and Croft
M. Worst Carolina Coliseum Show - Leon Russell and The Gap Band

Tim Driggers

LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD SINGLE

"Cool Carolina Winds" b/w "Tom Stacey, the Drummer and Me." The Dawson Boys. Atlantic.

The Dawson Boys of Rock Hill, now living in Atlanta, have a single out on the Atlantic label, and it's a good one. Both songs are their original material, though I know the push side, if not the other, is more than a year old. Titled "Cool Carolina Winds," it demonstrates the two brothers' ability to produce pop material of good pro quality, both from the writing and performing ends. Concerning a footloose lover, its style is middle-of-the-road, folky, though it sports orchestral support and a heavy jazz variation. The flipside is a switch to a foreboding rock style, appropriate since the song is about two dudes, including the storyteller, who get shot to death in a card game fight.

Dan Harmon

tunes & things

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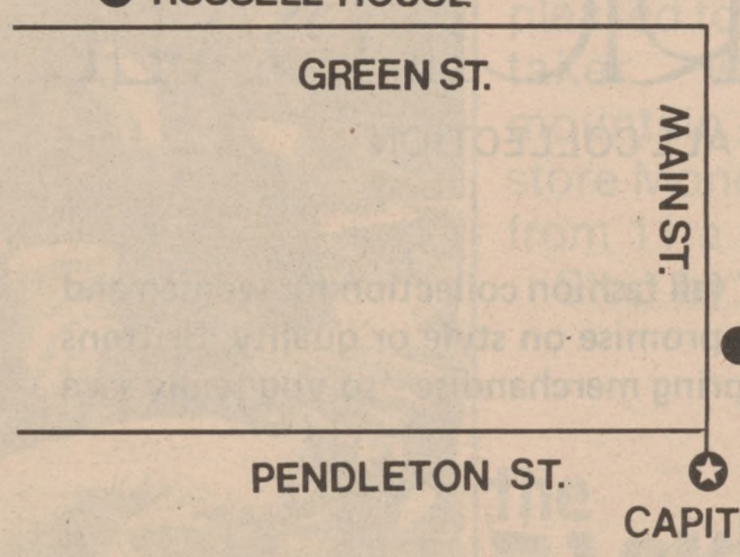

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EVENTS & entertainments

continued from page 12

music

University of South Carolina faculty members, **John Bauer**, violinist and **Bong Hi Kim**, pianist, will present a recital at 8 p.m. January 21 at Fraser Hall. The program, which will include sonatas by Hindemith, Beethoven and Franck, is open to the public free of charge.

Grand Funk will appear in concert at the Carolin Coliseum at 8 p.m. January 31. Tickets are $4.50, $5.50 and $6.50 and are now on sale at the box office and other Coliseum ticket outlets.

Clyde Barth, baritone and **Ruth Mock**, oboist, will appear in a joint recital in Daniel Hall Auditorium at 8 p.m. January 31. The concert is part of Clemson University's Music Department Chamber Music Series.

lectures

Lou Whittaker, will give a slide presentation on his attempt to climb "K2," the world's second highest mountain, January 20, at 8:15 p.m. in room 015 of Calcott at U.S.C.

Historian **Michael Wallace** of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice will speak at Clemson University January 31 on "The Violence of Southern Lynchings." The lecture is part of the second annual College of Liberal Arts Lecture Series whose topic this semester is "Perspectives on American Violence and Aggression."

art

A retrospective exhibit of paintings by **Ralph Della-Volpe**, professor of Art at Bennett College in Millbrook, New York, will be on display in the Columbia Museum of Art's East and West Galleries through February 9. The exhibit includes work from the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's and clearly shows the style changes the artist has undergone. Della-Volpe is especially noted for his use of bright, dominant colors.

"Nature Interlock," an exhibit by Lancaster artist **Inez Plyler**, will be at the Columbia Museum of Art through January 26. Plyler uses fossils and petrified wood, along with paint, ink and charcoal, to create semi-abstractions of nature and geological formations.

The S.C. Arts Commission's First Annual Statewide Invitational Art Exhibit will be on display at Clemson University's Lee Hall Gallery through February 9. The works of 67 natives and resident South Carolinians will be represented out of 185 artists who originally entered the competition. For further information on this exhibit, contact David M. Furchgott at the South Carolina Arts Commission, 829 Richland Street, Columbia, 758-3442.

An architecture exhibition, "Dismantling of a Landmark," will be at Clemson University's Lee Hall Gallery through January 31. Featured are scaled drawings of architectural details and a photographic record of the dismantling of five New York City buildings erected in 1849. The exhibit was organized by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit Service.

Highlight

A group of South Carolina consumers, concerned about the trend toward huge, sometimes inefficient "agribusinesses" and the accompanying demise of the small farm, have organized to try and reverse that trend.

The S.C. Association for Better Food and Housing, a non-profit corporation, is currently planning a study of the feasibility of the small farm. And if the study shows a farm can be set up on an economical basis, acting coordinator J. Larry Roof said he hopes the corporation can begin organic farming in the spring.

The farm cooperative, which is temporarily based at Sparkleberry Studio near Lexington, has several goals clearly in mind: producing "high quality nutritional food" by ecologically sound farming procedures and food processing methods," while keeping food costs low. Roof said the coop hopes to achieve those difficult goals by organizing as a non-profit corporation, removing cost-soaring middlemen, using alternative systems of power (for instance, solar, wind and methane gas energy), and avoiding costly chemicals and fertilizers.

Roof emphasized that he wants to get a feasibility study underway by January 31, because he'd like to see the farm in operation in 1975 and there's a lot of planning and work to be done. It takes about three years to convert a farm to natural growing processes, he explained, and if the corporation can't get the farm into operation this year, it'll be that much longer before Roof and everyone else will see the full fruits of their labors.

The study will cost about $1,000, which Roof said he plans to pay for by involving 100 people in the study and have each of them commit $10 to underwrite the expenses. The study would include a cost estimate of farm operations, suggested guidelines for managing the farm, legal arrangements for incorporation, and other considerations, in an extensive report.

Persons who participated in the study would then have first preference in what kind of work they would do on the farm, and they would of course receive the food that the farm produced. The participant-owners of the farm would contribute to the farm through financial support or work, or a flexible combination of both. A full-time, salaried manager would manage the farm.

What kind of rewards does Roof think the participants will gain from their labors and money? At the end of a three-year period, Roof said, each participant should be receiving 60 to 70 percent of his or her total food needs from the farm, if all goes well. The farm should supply all of the participants' vegetables, grains, and possibly eggs, and by the fourth year it should supply milk, milk products and meat also.

Informational meetings for the farm project will be held Saturday, January 18, and Saturday, January 25, at Sparkleberry. Both meetings will begin at 2 p.m. Further information will be available from Roof, at 359-6723.

classes

Building Your Own House: A Viable Alternative? is the theme of a short course offered at Sparkleberry January 28, 29, and 31 and February 1. Sponsored by the S.C. Association for Better Food and Housing, the course will be free. For times, registration and information, call Larry Roof at 359-6723.

television

Saturday, January 18

1 p.m. - College Basketball. The North Carolina Tar Heels vs. the North Carolina State Wolfpack in an ACC game at Raleigh. Look for an eight point State win. (Channel 10)

8 p.m. - College Basketball. The Davidson Wildcats take on the South Carolina Gamecocks in Columbia. The Gamecocks are our pick by ten points. (Channel 10)

Sunday, January 19

8:30 p.m. - Movie. "The Heartbreak Kid" is a bittersweet comedy directed by Elaine May from a screenplay by, of all people, Neil Simon. (Channel 25)

10:30 - "Ascent of Man." Man's intellectual evolution is traced in this 13-part series. (Channel 35, ETV)

Monday, January 20

9 p.m. - "Ascent of Man." The largest single step in man's development – the change from nomad to village agriculture – is discussed in the second show of this series. (Channel 35, ETV)

Tuesday, January 21

8:30 p.m. - Movie. "The Abduction of Saint Anne" is a movie that combines religious drama with a detective story. (Channel 25)

Wednesday, January 22

8:30 p.m. - American Heritage. "The Honorable Sam Houston" centers on Houston's campaign against the secession of Texas from the Union. (Channel 25)

Thursday, January 23

9 p.m. - Movie. "MacKenna's Gold" is a large-scale adventure set in the Southwest of 1874. Cast includes Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif and Telly Savalas. (Channel 19)

Friday, January 24

8 p.m. - Movie. "Kelly's Heroes" stars Clint Eastwood and Telly Savalas. (Channel 19)

10:30 p.m. - Romantic Rebellion. Host Kenneth Clark traces the development of the French painter, Jacques Louis David, and discusses his realization that art can be used to influence man's conduct. (Channel 35, ETV)

1 a.m. - Midnight Special. A country-rock show with Poco and The Marshall Tucker Band hosting Olivia Newton-John and the Charlie Daniels Band. (Channel 10)

Second feature

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2nd Big Week

'Weird Desires'

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by
Melissa Pruitt

cinema

If you're thinking of a movie, better call ahead to verify time and feature since many area theatres are subject to change after our deadline.

ATLANTIC I THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Boss Nigger" is a PG black Western. Fred Williamson stars in this movie about a white man's town where black men make the law. Shows at 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30.

ATLANTIC II THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Wide-Open Marriage," which is the X-rated answer to contemporary marriage, and "Weird Desires," are this week's choice selections. Shows are continuous from 3:20 with the last complete feature at 9.

CAROLINA THEATRE, 1223 Main Street, 252-8011

"The Street Fighter" is a violent karate movie. It used to be rated X, but somehow the filmmakers managed to get it changed to R. Show times are 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

CINE-ART THEATRE, 1917 Washington Street, 779-3039

"Classmates" and "Sex Liberties" are the devilish delights for this week. Rated X, shows are continuous from 1 p.m. with the last complete feature at 9.

DUTCH SQUARE NORTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 789-1110

"The Dove" is a love story starring Joseph Bottoms as a young man who wants to sail around the world. Rated PG with shows at 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

DUTCH SQUARE SOUTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 789-1110

"The Island at the Top of the World" is the Walt Disney version of the Jules Verne science fiction thriller. Rated G, show times are 1:45, 4, 6:15 and 8:30.

FOX THEATRE, 1607 Main Street, 254-5212

"Pardon My Blooper," rated R, is a take-off on radio. The movie contains actual cuts of mistakes made by announces while on the air. Show times are 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10 and 9.

GAMECOCK I THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"The Trial of Billy Jack" is staying in town, even though the ads keep promising it will leave soon. Rated PG with shows at 1:30, 5 and 8:30. The kiddie matinee Saturday (January 18) at 11 and 1 and Sunday (January 19) at 1 is "Rumpelstiltskin."

GAMECOCK II THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"The Longest Yard," rated R, is certainly having a long run. Burt Reynolds is a pro football player who goes to prison and Eddie Albert is the football loving prison warden. Shows at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15.

JEFFERSON SQUARE THEATRE, Jefferson Square, Downtown, 254-6731

Disaster hits in "Earthquake." Should Charlton Heston try to save his wife who is swept away in a flood or stay with his mistress? This and many other profound questions will be answered daily at 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30. Rated G.

MIRACLE THEATRE, 1228 Main Street, 256-1950

"White Lightning" is a re-release of a Burt Reynolds flick that came out last year. Rated PG with shows at 1:20, 3:20, 5:25, 7:25 and 9:30. The weekend (January 17 and 18) midnight show is Woody Allen's "What's Up, Tiger Lilly?"

PALMETTO THEATRE, 1417 Main Street, 254-5800

"The Towering Inferno" is one of the most expensive movies ever made. What could be more disastrous than a fire in a new skyscraper that erupts while the VIP's are on the top floor celebrating the building's opening? Rated PG, shows at 2, 5 and 8. The Friday (January 17) and Saturday (January 18) 11:15 late show is "Reefer Madness."

PLAZA III THEATRE, 1323 Main Street, 254-7960

"The Godfather Part II" is quite different from the original and much more of a character study than a show of blood and violence. Al Pacino gives an outstanding performance as Michael Corleone. See review in January 17 Osceola. Rated R, show times are 1, 4:34 and 8:30.

RICHLAND MALL I THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"Freebie and the Bean" stars James Caan and Alan Arkin as a pair of whacky detectives. Rated R with shows at 3, 5, 7 and 9. The weekend (January 17 and 18) 11:15 late show is "Night of the Living Dead."

RICHLAND MALL II THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"The Front Page" is a comedy about journalism in the twenties. Jack Lemmon is the reporter who can't tear himself away from the newspaper world and Walter Matthau is the hard-line editor who is willing to try anything to get "the story" first. See review in January 17 Osceola. Rated PG, show times are 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20.

theatre

Town Theatre's production of "The Playroom," a contemporary drama about a group of teenagers who plan a kidnapping and murder, will open January 24 and run through February 1. Tickets are $3.50 for adults and $2.50 for students. For further information call Town Theatre, 799-2510 or 799-3859.

Workshop Theatre will present "That Championship Season" January 21 through February 2 except Monday at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $3.50 for adults and $2.50 for students. For further information call the theatre, 799-6551, after noon.

The National Players will appear in Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Part I," January 27 at Clemson University's Tillman Hall Auditorium. There will be a matinee and evening performance. For times and ticket information call Clemson University, 656-2061.

"Fiddler on the Roof" will be presented at Winthrop College January 23 as part of the Artist Series. Stars include Bob Carroll as Tevye and Nina Miller as Golde, Tevye's wife. Tickets for "Fiddler on the Roof" will be on sale between 2 and 8 the day of the performance at Byrnes box office. They are $6 for orchestra and first balcony seats and $4 for second and third balcony seats. Full-time Winthrop students will be admitted free with presentation of fees okay card, and part-time Winthrop students and other area students will be admitted for half-price.

continued on page 11

3
Shows
Daily
at
1:00
4:45
8:30

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS
Francis Ford Coppola's PRODUCTION
The Godfather PART II

R RESTRICTED Under 17 requires accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian

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